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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,839	11/07/2005	Gert Droesebeke	003D.0060.U1(US)	2692
29683	7590	11/01/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP			TA, THO DAC	
4 RESEARCH DRIVE			ART UNIT	
SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			PAPER NUMBER	

2833

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/532,839

Applicant(s)

DROESBEKE, GERT

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,7,8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/12/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/12/06 has been entered.

2. The indicated allowability of claims is withdrawn in view of the newly submitted reference(s) to EP 0 398 473 A1 by Applicants. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 398 473 A1.

In regard to claim 1, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses cable connector assembly comprising cover means 14 and connecting means 60, the cover means 14 comprising

Art Unit: 2833

wall portions 16 and an opening 24 adapted to accommodate the connecting means 60, at least one of the wall portions 16 is at least partially curved and adapted for guiding at least one cable 10 of one or more other cable connector assemblies, wherein the cable connector assembly comprises means (two columns, each located on each side of 16, see fig. 1) for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance of the at least one cable of the one or more other cable connector assemblies.

In regard to claim 2, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses that the wall portions 16 comprise the means 58 for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance.

In regard to claim 7, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses that the first cable connector assembly comprises the at least partially curved wall portion 16 and the second cable connector assembly comprises a wall portion 50 having a cable opening 52 adapted for directing the cable 10 substantially tangential to the at least partially curved wall portion 16.

In regard to claim 8, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses cable connector system comprising at least a first and a second cable connector assembly each comprising cover means 14 and connecting means 60, the cover means 14 comprising wall portions 16 and an opening 24 adapted to accommodate the connecting means 60, wherein at least one of the wall portions 16 is at least partially curved for guiding at least one cable 10 of one or more other cable connector assemblies, wherein the first cable

Art Unit: 2833

connector comprises the at least partially curved wall portion 16 and the second cable connector comprises a wall portion 50 having a cable opening 52 adapted for directing the cable 10 substantially tangential to the at least partially curved wall portion 16, wherein the system comprises further cable connector assemblies having further cables 10, the at least partially curved wall portion 16 of the first connector assembly guiding at least some of the further cables 10.

In regard to claim 10, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses cover means 14 comprising an at least partially curved wall portion 16.

In regard to claim 11, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses the curved portion of the at least one of the wall portions 16 has a bend radius equal to or higher than five times the outer diameter of the cable (individual cable of flexible cable 10).

In regard to claim 12, EP 0 398 473 A1 discloses cable connector assembly 8' comprising: an electrical connector 60'; and a cover 14' connected to the electrical connector 60', wherein the cover 14' is adapted to allow a first cable 10'a to extend through the cover 14' and be electrically connected to the electrical connector 60', wherein the cover 14' comprises wall portions 16' and an opening 24' accommodating the electrical connector 60', wherein a first one of the wall portions 16' is at least partially curved and adapted for guiding a second cable 10a of another cable connector assembly 8 on the first wall portion 16', and wherein the cable connector assembly 8'

Art Unit: 2833

comprises a cable movement guide (two columns, each located on each side of 16, see fig. 1) proximate the first wall portion 16' for reducing movement and/or assisting guidance of the second cable against the first wall portion.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 3-6, 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: in regard to claims 3 and 9, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest cable tie means for attaching the cable to the at least partially curved wall portion; and in combination with other limitations in the base claim.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



THO D. TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt  
10/23/06